

App. No. 10/716,712

Remarks

Reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-9 and 12-20 are canceled. New claims 22-25 are added. Claims 10, 11 and 21-25 are pending.

I. Claim amendments

Claim 10 has been amended to recite an external communication link, a controller and a plurality of data couplers. The amendments are supported by the original disclosure, for example page 14, line 22 to page 15, line 15 and Figure 4.

Claim 21 is amended in light of the amendments made to claim 10.

New claims 22-23 are supported by the original disclosure, for example page 14, line 22 to page 15, line 15 and Figure 2.

New claims 24-25 are supported by the original disclosure, for example page 15, lines 16-22 and Figure 3.

No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Entry of the amendments is requested as the amendments do not raise new issues that would require further consideration or searching. In addition, finally rejected claims 1-9 and 12-20 have been canceled. Applicants note that an external communication link and a controller were previously recited in claims 1 and 9, so these features have already been considered by the Examiner. Likewise, claims 5, 6, 17, 18 and 21 previously recited a coupler or couplers, so this feature has already been considered by the Examiner. Therefore, no new features have been added that have not yet been considered by the Examiner.

II. 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejections

Claims 5-8 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. These claims have been canceled. The pending claims no longer recite PDL. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

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III. 35 USC 103 rejections

Claims 1-4 and 12-16 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Webopedia PCL article in view of common desktop laser and inkjet printers including US 6,733,103 to Muratu.

In addition, claims 9, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 2002/0001495 to Mochizuki in view of US 2002/0097414 to Utsunomiya.

In addition, claims 10, 11 and 21 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 2002/0180993 to Klinefelter et al. (Klinefelter).

Applicant respectfully traverses each rejection.

Claims 1-4, 9, 12-16, 18 and 20 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejections thereto moot.

With respect to claim 10, the rejection suggests that Klinefelter discloses a USB hub 28 and data writers 24A-24E. Without conceding that the hub 28 is a USB hub, Klinefelter does not teach or suggest a plurality of data couplers connected to one of the data writers 24A-E and the hub 28 providing communications between the data writer and the hub. Klinefelter does disclose a controller 22 between the hub 28 and each data writer 24A-E. However, claim 10 recites a controller, as well as a plurality of data couplers. If the element 22 of Klinefelter is considered a controller, then Klinefelter does not disclose a data coupler. If the element 22 of Klinefelter is considered a data coupler, then Klinefelter does not disclose a controller.

For at least these reasons, claim 10 is patentable over Klinefelter. Claims 11 and 21 depend from claim 10 and are patentable along with claim 10 and need not be separately distinguished at this time. By not separately addressing claims 11 and 21, Applicants do not concede the propriety of the rejections thereto and reserves the right to file arguments at a later date specifically addressing the rejections.

With respect to new claims 22-23 and 24-25, claims 22 and 24 each recite the combination of a controller within the printer and a plurality of data couplers. This combination of features is not taught or suggested by Klinefelter.

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IV. Conclusion

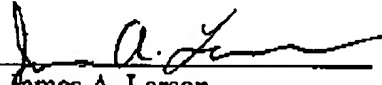
In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (612) 455-3805.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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